

City of Gresham
Natural Resources and Sustainability Council Advisory Committee ("NRSC")
Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Gresham City Hall
Meeting Summary

Members:	<u>Present</u>	<u>Unable to Attend</u>
	Chair Shannon Martin	Kurt Fuerstenau
	Chris Bentley	Trevor Kitchen
	Jason Howard	Councilor McCormick
	Jef Kaiser	Tracy Thorson
	Teresa Koper	

Staff: Dan Blue, NRSC Liaison, Recycling and Solid Waste Division Manager

Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The minutes of the December 18, 2013 NRSC meeting were reviewed and approved with some changes.

1. Announcements

Chair Martin thanked Mr. Kaiser for his help in composing a letter of recommendation to the Columbia Land Trust and Portland Audubon Society for a grant application.

ACTION ITEM – Send signed letter to Dan Blue to be printed on City letterhead (DONE)

Mr. Howard made two announcements:

- Tuesday January 28th Johnson Creek Watershed Council Land Use Committee will meet at 6pm at the Highland Pub. Torrey Lindbo of Gresham's Watershed Division will present the Natural Resources Report Card.
- Saturday, March 1st is the 16th annual Johnson Creek Watershed Council's watershed-wide event. Information is available at jcw.org.

Ms. Koper announced that Oregon is now Pacific Coast Action Plan on Climate and Energy member, an agreement to regulate carbon emissions.

Mr. Blue showed a copy of the "Invest in Gresham" mail piece that was recently sent to City residents regarding the proposed levy that is expected to appear on the May 2014 ballot. The Committee discussed ways to support the levy and enhanced funding for parks.

MOTION – write a letter to City Council in support of increasing general fund allocation for parks. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM – in preparation for drafting such a letter, Mr. Howard will provide background information by email.

ACTION ITEM – Mr. Bentley will contact Eric Chambers to offer NRSC assistance in communicating with neighborhood associations regarding the proposed levy. (UPDATE: Letter drafted.)

Mr. Blue announced that the City's new Transportation Division manager, Chris Strong, is interested in meeting with the NRSC.

2. Commercial Organics Program Update – Dan Blue

Mr. Blue presented an update on food waste that was recently given to the City's solid waste haulers. Several years ago, the City launched a program to encourage businesses to minimize food waste in garbage containers.

The program has been fairly successful and is nearing the goal of 60 businesses participating. The entire presentation is included with the meeting materials.

3. Natural Resources Report Card Discussion – Chair Martin

The Committee continued a discussion of the Natural Resources Report Card. Suggestions from Committee members included:

- Take an expanded look at the Report Card, including measures like jobs, waste reclamation, fuel usage, solid waste tonnage and energy consumed to tie in with data in the existing report.
- Include a “dashboard” in the report, providing an accessible overview of the report’s findings.
- Find opportunities to be involved at the Council level, particularly in suggesting items for inclusion in the annual Work Plan.
- Form a subcommittee to prepare the initial draft of an expanded report.
- Determine the scope of the report, given the limitations of the Committee’s influence, prior to forming a subcommittee.

The Committee agreed by consensus to discuss the scope of the report at the February NRSC meeting prior to making a decision on next steps.

ACTION ITEM – Mr. Blue to send the complete Natural Resources Report, NRSC mission statement information, Council Work Plan document, and Clark County 2012 report to members.

ACTION ITEM – Mr. Bentley to send Bloomington report link.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:25 PM.

NOTE: This meeting was recorded in its entirety. Contact Dan Blue to obtain a digital recording.